

Allowed Claims: 10, 13-20.

Examiner's Amendment/Reasons for Allowance

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dicran Halajian on September 14, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. Claim 10, line 18, delete "and";
2. Claim 10, line 21, after "applied" insert --; and wherein a curvature of a surface of the exit window has the same sign of the curvature as the meniscus when no voltage is applied--;
3. Cancel claim 11;
4. Claim 19, line 15, after "applied" insert --; and wherein a curvature of a surface of the exit window has the same sign of the curvature as the meniscus when no voltage is applied--;
5. Replace Claim 20 with the following:

--Claim 20

An optical lens system comprising: a first lens having a chamber having an entrance window and an exit window; the chamber comprising a first fluid and a second fluid in contact over a meniscus, the fluids being substantially immiscible;

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the chamber further comprising electrodes for applying a voltage for varying a shape of the meniscus in dependence of the applied voltage; wherein a contact surface of the entrance window is in contact with the first fluid, the entrance window having a second surface opposite said first surface, said contact surface having a first curvature and said second surface having a second curvature, wherein the first curvature and the second curvature have a same sign as a curvature of the meniscus when no voltage is applied; and wherein a contact surface of the exit window that contacts with the second fluid has a curvature with the same sign as the curvature of the meniscus when no voltage is applied.—

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed combination of limitations to warrant a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103. Specifically, with reference to independent claims 10 and 19, none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed optical lens system specifically including, as the distinguishing features in combination with the other limitations, the claimed first curvature and the claimed second curvature have a same sign as a curvature of the meniscus when no voltage is applied and wherein a curvature of a surface of the exit window has the same sign of the curvature as the meniscus when no voltage is applied. Specifically, with reference to independent claim 20, none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed optical lens system specifically

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including, as the distinguishing features in combination with the other limitations, the claimed first curvature and the claimed second curvature have a same sign as a curvature of the meniscus when no voltage is applied and wherein a contact surface of the exit window that contacts with the second fluid has a curvature with the same sign as the curvature of the meniscus when no voltage is applied.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jordan M. Schwartz whose telephone number is 571-272-2337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Mack can be reached on 571-272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jordan M. Schwartz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2873
September 25, 2009

/Jordan M. Schwartz/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2873